

P.B. 5818 - Patentlaan 2
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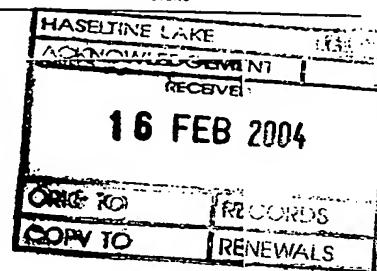
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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. P100543EP00	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n° // Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet 03257273.7-2207/
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire FANUC LTD	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,--) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

COMPLETED
112 FEB 2004
NOTED

- The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.
- Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

09/02/04

17/02/04

24/2/04



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent EP 03 25 7273
Convention

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)								
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim									
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 09, 31 July 1998 (1998-07-31) & JP 10 094230 A (HITACHI LTD), 10 April 1998 (1998-04-10) * abstract *	1,2,6	H02K1/14 H02K1/16								
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 061 (E-483), 25 February 1987 (1987-02-25) & JP 61 221560 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 1 October 1986 (1986-10-01) * abstract *	7									
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 061 (E-483), 25 February 1987 (1987-02-25) & JP 61 221560 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 1 October 1986 (1986-10-01) * abstract *	7									
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 06, 4 June 2002 (2002-06-04) & JP 2002 064949 A (AICHI EMERSON ELECTRIC CO LTD), 28 February 2002 (2002-02-28) * abstract *	1,6									
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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION											
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:											
see sheet B											
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.											
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of completion of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUNICH</td> <td>28 January 2004</td> <td>Tangocci, A</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	MUNICH	28 January 2004	Tangocci, A		
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner									
MUNICH	28 January 2004	Tangocci, A									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td> <td colspan="3"> T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </td> </tr> <tr> <td>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </table>				CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document										
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document											



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
X	GB 2 149 226 A (PAPST MOTOREN GMBH & CO KG) 5 June 1985 (1985-06-05) * page 2, left-hand column, line 52 - right-hand column, line 74; figures 1,2 * ---	1,6	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 04, 30 April 1997 (1997-04-30) & JP 08 340665 A (AISIN SEIKI CO LTD), 24 December 1996 (1996-12-24) * abstract *---	1,6	
A	US 5 051 634 A (OVERTON BERNARD P) 24 September 1991 (1991-09-24) * column 2, line 35 - column 3, line 13; figures 1-3 *---	1,2,6	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 10, 31 October 1996 (1996-10-31) & JP 08 163799 A (FUJITSU GENERAL LTD), 21 June 1996 (1996-06-21) * abstract *-----	1,2,6	



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1,2,6,7

Auxiliary teeth formed in a slot between adjacent ones of coils wound around main teeth, the shape of the auxiliary teeth being such as to fill a gap between adjacent ones of said coils, to effectively conduct heat from the coils to the stator core and reduce vibrations.

2. Claims: 1,3-7

Auxiliary teeth formed in a slot between adjacent ones of coils wound around main teeth, the lengths of said auxiliary teeth being set to adjust torque and/or cogging amount of the motor.

After having taken the prior art into consideration, it appears that the subject-matter of these two groups of claims relate to different concepts in the sense of Article 82 EPC (lack of unity a posteriori, Guidelines B VII 1.3). The provision of auxiliary teeth between main teeth carrying coils (claim 1) is well known in the art: the concepts expressed in said two groups of claims are thus linked only by the fact that they are used in a known electric motor. In the first group of claims the auxiliary teeth fill the gap between coils to conduct heat and avoid vibrations, whilst in the second group of claims the lengths of the auxiliary teeth are set in order to adjust the torque and/or the cogging amount of the electric motor.

The link between the inventions required by Article 82 EPC must be a technical relationship which finds expression in the claims in terms of the same or corresponding special technical features (features that define a contribution that the claimed invention considered as a whole makes OVER the prior art). Guidelines CIII 7.2, 7.8(second paragraph) and Rule 30(1).

In the present application there is no single general inventive concept in the sense of Article 82 EPC between the above-mentioned two groups of claims, the above-mentioned requirements being thus not met.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 25 7273

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-01-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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JP 61221560	A	01-10-1986	NONE			
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